

ELLEN CHARLTON.

JANUARY 13, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 8204.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8204) granting a pension to Ellen Charlton, having considered the same, report as follows:

Robert Charlton served in Company K, Twelfth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, from February 8, 1864, to June 17, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. His widow, the beneficiary of this bill, filed a claim for pension under the general law, but it was rejected on the ground that the evidence failed to show that soldier's death was due to his army service. She is pensioned at \$8 per month, under the act of June 27, 1890.

Soldier was treated while in service (as shown by records) for malarial fever and diarrhea. Evidence filed in the Pension Office shows that he suffered from rheumatism also in service, and that at discharge he was suffering from both diarrhea and rheumatism, from which he continued to suffer and by which he was greatly reduced. He was never well, strong, or healthy from the time he left the service until he died.

Irwin Simpson, M. D., testifies that he treated the soldier in his last illness, and that his death was caused by facial erysipelas, brought on directly by his debilitated condition and deteriorated blood, the result of chronic diarrhea and chronic rheumatism, for which he treated soldier for several years before his death. He considers the connection between the diseases contracted in the Army and the disease from which the soldier died to be undoubted and unmistakable, and that they not only contributed to, but were the direct cause of, his contracting the erysipelas from which he died.

The widow is now 69 or 70 years of age, and has no means of support except her pension of \$8 and the assistance of her daughter.

The passage of the bill is recommended, with an amendment striking out the words "of Niles, Michigan," in line 6.